

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01764 260744Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /103 W
----- 128557

R 251120Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6650

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1764

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED CIRCULAR NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMING US THAT, IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT SVOBODA'S HEALTH, GOC HAS ASSUMED FUNCTIONS OF PRESIDENT SINCE MARCH 28 UNDER PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 64 OF CONSTITUTION. GOC HAS AUTHORIZED PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL TO EXERCISE "SOME OF THE COMPETENCES" OF THE PRESIDENT STIPULATED IN PARA 1, ARTICLE 61, PARTICULARLY THOSE SPECIFIED UNDER SUBPARAS A AND B.

2. SUBPARAS REFERRED TO CONCERN CONDUCT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATION INTERNATIONAL TREATIES, RECEIVING AND ACCREDITING ENVOYS.

3. COMMENT: NOTE MERELY PUTS ON PAPER SITUATION WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE BEGINNING SVOBODA'S ILLNESS. ZANTOVSKY, HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD CHARGE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01764 260744Z

THAT, IN RETROSPECT, NOTE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN

ISSUED EARLIER, BUT GOC WAITED UNTIL QUESTION OF SVOBODA'S CONDITION BECAME CLEARER. IT NOW CLEAR THAT HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXERCISE HIS FUNCTIONS BEFORE END OF YEAR; THUS IT DEEMED NECESSARY ISSUE NOTE. EMBASSY FEELS IT MORE LIKELY THAT NO ACTION TAKEN UNTIL NOW BECAUSE GOC EXPECTED SVOBODA'S DEATH IMMINENT.

4. NOW THAT SVOBODA HAS CONFOUNDED MEDICAL EXPERTS AND APPEARS WELL ON ROAD TO RECOVERY, QUESTION OF SUCCESSION AND RESHUFFLE OF LEADERSHIP SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A NON-ISSUE. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY INFORMED BY ONE SOURCE IN FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE THAT IN EVENT OF SVOBODA'S DEMISE, INDRA WOULD ASSUME PRESIDENCY, WITH HUSEK AND BILAK COMPLETING A "TROIKA", THIS UNCONFIRMED BY ANY OTHER SOURCE AND WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW CONTINUING RUMORS THAT BILAK'S STAR IS FALLING. MORE LIKELY ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE FOR HUSAK TO ASSUME PRESIDENCY WHILE RETAINING CONTROL OF PARTY A LO GOTTWALD AND ZAPOTOCKY.

5. CZECH-BORN AMCIT WHO IS FREQUENT VISITOR HERE TELLS US CZECHS GENERALLY APPREHENSIVE OVER ANY MOVE TO KICK HUSAK UPSTAIRS, NOT OUT OF LOVE FOR HUSAK BUT OUT OF FEAR THAT ANY REPLACEMENT WOULD BE WORSE. FEELING IS THAT HUSAK HAS AT LEAST SHOWN RESPECT FOR LAW AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURES. THIS NOT SURPRISING, CONSIDERING HOW HE HIMSELF SUFFERED DURING FIFTIES FROM THEIR SUSPENSION.

6. IN ANY EVENT, WE CONSIDER LEADERSHIP SITUATION NOW TO BE STABLE, WITH HUSAK IN FIRM CONTROL.
PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, HEALTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRAGUE01764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740203-0054
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740718/aaaaaozc.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP
TAGS: PINT, CZ, (SVOBODA), (HUSAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005